

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 DHA-02 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY: D/HA:ORM:HBCUSHING

APPROVED BY: D/HA:JLCARLIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 269410

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM GENEVA DTD 29 OCT 1976 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 8549

FOR D/HA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: BOAT CASES

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED ON PRIVATE BASIS "STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL"  
UNHCR REPORT ON BOAT CASES PREPARED BY FORMER HANOI REP DARRYL  
HAN BASED ON SURVEYS OF 755 REFUGEES CONDUCTED IN THAILAND.  
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MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE AND HONG KONG FROM SEPTEMBER 4 TO 29.

REPORT WAS AIRPOUCHED OCTOBER 29 TO HA, REGISTRY NO. 0985868.

2. HAN REVIEWS BACKGROUND AND NATURE OF BOAT CASE PROBLEM IN SOME DETAIL, BURDEN OF WHICH IS ALREADY FAMILIAR TO DEPARTMENT. HOWEVER, SOME OF THE STATISTICS HE GATHERED (VALID AS OF OCTOBER 1, 1976) ON HIS SURVEY MAY BE OF MORE IMMEDIATE INTEREST TO DEPARTMENT AND ARE SYNTHESIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A. OF 3,000 BOAT PEOPLE FROM VIETNAM IDENTIFIED SINCE JANUARY 1976, LANDINGS PERMITTED FOR TEMPORARY ASYLUM HAVE BEEN AS FOLLOWS: THAILAND 1,232; MALAYSIA 505; PHILIPPINES 508; INDONESIA 105; SINGAPORE 46; JAPAN 184; HONG KONG 158.

B. REASONS FOR DEPARTURE FROM VIETNAM: (BASED ON 233 CASES, 755 PERSONS) - FAMILY RE-UNION 12.8 PERCENT: POLITICAL REASONS 20.1 PERCENT, MILITARY BACKGROUND 16.9 PERCENT (OR WHICH 10.6 PERCENT DUE TO SENSITIVE MILITARY BACKGROUND AND 6.3 PERCENT TO UNEMPLOYMENT); PREVAILING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN VIEWNAM 49.9 PERCENT; INVOLUNTARY DEPARTURES .3 PERCENT.

C. ETHNIC COMPOSITION - VIETNAMESE ETHNIC ORIGIN 55 PERCENT: CHINESE (OF WHOM MAJORITY FROM CHO LON) 44 PERCENT.

D. CASE LOAD FOR OCCUPATIONS: PROFESSIONALS (DOCTORS, ENGINEERS, BANKERS, CIVIL SERVANTS, TEACHERS ETC) 11.3 PERCENT; MILITARY/SECURITY PERSONNEL 16.1 PERCENT: BUSINESSMEN 18.3 PERCENT: TECHNICIANS (MECHANICS, ELECTRICIANS, FACTORY WORKERS) 21.7 PERCENT: CLERICAL .3 PERCENT; STUDENTS 13.5 PERCENT; FISHERMEN 13.9 PERCENT: MISCELLANEOUS 2.2 PERCENT.

E. DOMICILES OF ORIGIN: SAIGON 56 PERCENT: COASTAL AREAS 37 PERCENT: INLAND AREAS OTHER THAN SAIGON 7 PERCENT.

G. RELIGION: BUDDHISM 43 PERCENT: CHRISTIAN (LARGELY CATHOLIC) 51 PERCENT; ANCESTOR WORSHIP 6 PERCENT.

H. PREFERRED COUNTRY OF RESETTLEMENT: USA 53 PERCENT: FRANCE 9 PERCENT: OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES (WEST GERMANY, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, HOLLAND) 15 PERCENT: HONG KONG 5 PERCENT: ANYWHERE OUTSIDE SOUTHEAST ASIAN PENINSULA 17 PERCENT.  
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2. HAS DESCRIBES CAREFUL PLANNING REQUIRED FOR DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS AND APPARENT EXISTENCE OF CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATION HANDLING TRAFFIC FOR "CONSIDERATION." HE ALSO REPORTS THAT IN AT LEAST TWO CASES, ESCAPE BOATS HAVE RETURNED TO VIETNAM TO BRING OUT ADDITIONAL ESCAPEES. HE REPORTS SOME CLASHES WITH COASTAL PATROLS, IN ADDITION TO HAZARDS ON SOUTH CHINA SEA INCLUDING STORMS AND EXHAUSTION OF FUEL AND PROVISIONS. THE

INFLUENCE OF BBC AND VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCASTS IN DETERMINING COUNTRIES OF LANDING IS DESCRIBED AS WELL AS AFFECT OF U.S. ANNOUNCEMENT IN MAY 1976 OF ADDITIONAL QUOTA OF 11,000 INDOCHINESE WHICH ENCOURAGED FURTHER DEPARTURES. HAN CONCLUDES REPORT WITH DESCRIPTION OF SITUATION OF REFUGEES IN COUNTRIES OF TEMPORARY ASYLUM.

3. ALTHOUGH REPORT IS ORIENTED PRINCIPALLY TOWARD UNHCR PROGRAM IN AREA, MISSION FOUND IT BALANCED AND ILLUMINATING EXPOSITION OF PRESENT BOAT CASE SITUATION AND PROBLEM ON THE SCENE.

4. DEPARTMENT DISTRIBUTE OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED. CATTO UNQTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** SREF, TH, US  
**To:** BANGKOK KUALA LUMPUR MANILA MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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